UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (SADS)

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

BDS 301/ BDS 413: PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT

DATE: 29TH JULY 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:

THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME

Public policy analysis and management play a critical role in addressing national development challenges by ensuring that government interventions are effective, efficient, and responsive to citizens' needs. In Kenya, the Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) provides an important example of how public policy is formulated, analyzed, implemented, and managed. The programme was introduced to address the growing housing deficit, particularly among low- and middle-income households in urban areas. Rapid urbanization, population growth, and rising construction costs had made home ownership difficult for many citizens, prompting the government to develop a policy aimed at increasing access to decent and affordable housing.

The policy formulation process involved extensive research and stakeholder consultations. Government agencies conducted needs assessments to determine the magnitude of the housing shortage and identify target beneficiaries. Policy analysts examined demographic trends, income levels, land availability, and financing mechanisms. Various stakeholders, including county governments, private developers, financial institutions, civil society organizations, and community representatives, were engaged to provide input. Through this analysis, policymakers identified public-private partnerships as a suitable strategy for mobilizing resources and expertise necessary for large-scale housing development.

During implementation, several management challenges emerged. Land acquisition disputes, delays in project approvals, financing constraints, and concerns regarding beneficiary selection affected progress in some areas. Policy managers were required to coordinate multiple actors, monitor project timelines, and ensure compliance with legal and environmental regulations. Continuous policy analysis helped identify gaps and informed adjustments to implementation strategies. For example, digital registration systems were introduced to improve transparency in the allocation of housing units and reduce opportunities for corruption.

Monitoring and evaluation formed an important component of policy management. Government agencies regularly collected data on the number of housing units completed, occupancy rates, project costs, and beneficiary satisfaction. Policy analysts used this information to assess whether the programme was achieving its intended objectives. Findings indicated that while significant progress had been made in increasing housing supply, affordability remained a challenge for some low-income households. Consequently, recommendations were made to expand mortgage support schemes, encourage innovative building technologies, and strengthen collaboration between national and county governments.

The Affordable Housing Programme demonstrates the importance of public policy analysis and management in achieving development goals. Effective policy analysis provided evidence for decision-making, while sound management ensured coordination, accountability, and continuous improvement throughout the policy cycle. The case highlights how governments can use policy analysis to identify societal problems, evaluate alternatives, implement solutions, and make necessary adjustments based on performance data. Ultimately, successful public policy management contributes to improved service delivery, economic development, and enhanced quality of life for citizens.

Required:

a) Determine any five factors that led to the formulation of the Affordable Housing Programme in Kenya **(10 marks)**

b) Discuss five activities that were undertaken during the policy analysis and formulation stage **(10**

marks)

c) Propose five challenges that were experienced during the implementation of the Affordable Housing Programme in Kenya **(5 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

a) Hansen (2002: 271) argues that 'path dependence is established only when it can be shown that policy change was considered and rejected for reasons that cannot be explained without reference to the structure of costs and incentives created by the original policy choice'. Assess the reasons for rejection of the recent Kenya's finance Bill 2024/2025 **(10 marks)**

b) Using relevant examples propose challenges facing human rights activists participation in public policy making in Kenya **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION THREE

a) Policies are planned when there is need for a change, but change is never embraced due to human desire to remain in their comfort zone and the fear of the unknown brought about by this needed change. Propose the steps to be taken when institution change in a given policy **(10 marks)**

b) Discuss any five ways in which a country's president can gain legal basis for implementing a policy **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

a) Evaluate any five reasons for the change in the current Kenyan education system from 8-4-4 to CBC **(10 marks)**

b) Explain the two features of Cabinet collective responsibility **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

a) In order to come up with a public policy, various players have to take deliberate steps towards doing what is necessary. Assess the role of the civil society in the policy making process **(10 marks**

b) Discuss any five critical dimensions of public policy **(5 Marks)**

QUESTION SIX

a) According to the international Monetary Policy, a country's strategy paper should conform to certain principles. Outline any five of these principles **(10 marks)**

b) Analyze any five private aspects of a public leader which may need to be discussed in public before such a person is vetted into a public appointment **(5 marks)**